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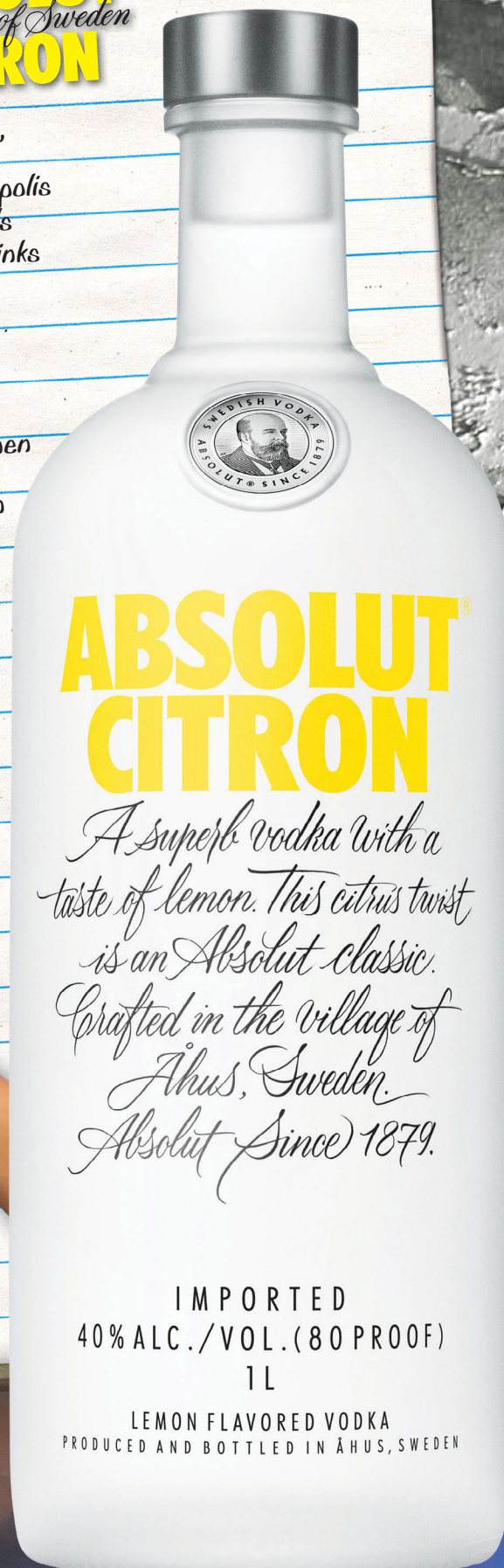
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OF THE WEEK**

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July 18-24, 2018

VOLUME 38 | NUMBER 1963



25



41

8 FEATURE

X GAMES

Athletes to watch, a history of monumental feats, where to skate and ride locally, and more

By CP staff

4 NEWS

THE SHORTLIST
Gone fishin'
no more

BLOTTER
Rep. Erik Paulsen
tries to change
his environmental
record

MULLEN
Revenge
of the nerd

25 FOOD

EXTREME
NOSHING
How the X Games
athletes fuel up

29 A-LIST

THE FLOATING
LIBRARY
Take a canoe out
to this Lake Phalen
wonder

39 FILM

EIGHTH GRADE
Middle school
still sucks

41 THEATER

SUPERHERO
A new collaboration
at the Southern

43 FASHION

STREET STYLE
Vogue Night at
Walker Art Center

45 MUSIC

X GAMES
CONCERTS
How extreme are
these artists?

46 CRITICS' PICKS

FREE WILL
ASTROLOGY
CROSSWORD

48 CLASSIFIEDS

Savage Love

cover credit

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Bakke/ESPN Images

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THE SHORTLIST



AP PHOTO/CHRIS O'MEARA

Would you stay at a Prince-themed hotel?
citypages.com

THE STAT SHEET

8,000

Feet of copper wire stolen from St. Paul light poles, which thieves sell for scrap

111

Age of St. Anthony's Evelyn Kleine, the oldest person in Minnesota

41,000

Decline in Minnesota fishing licenses purchased this year, compared to the same time last year

2,126

Number of Fox News stories on Hillary Clinton since the 2016 election, proving a good villain never goes out of style

"This is a real tragedy! Papa John's was the only pizza I ever found that tasted just like the pizza in my middle school's cafeteria."

Reader Michael Mattson responds to "Target Field dumps disgraced Pizza vendor Papa John's," at citypages.com.

FALSE WITNESS

REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL candidates Jeff Johnson and Tim Pawlenty are stumbling over each other to see who can be a bigger dick to Minnesota's refugees. Nothing quite fires up the party faithful like having brown bad guys to blame for all their sorrows.

Within the GOP, refugees are seen as prone to crime and gobbling hungrily from the welfare trough. One small problem: Neither is true.

Stats show that immigrants are far less likely to be convicted of crimes, though far more likely to start their own businesses. And while it costs taxpayers an average of \$107,000 to resettle each person, according to a Notre Dame study, they pay \$128,000 in taxes over that same time period.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

See the fantastical faces of
CONVERGENCE 2018

Even if you make \$100K, Minneapolis still nation's
5TH LEAST affordable city

In **LAKE MINNETONKA BEAR**, Minnesota finds a black resident's death worthy of mourning

The **8 BEST BIKE RIDES** in Minnesota

Woman says Minneapolis Parks **COPS 'DREW GUNS,'** handcuffed black boys [Video]



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NEW, LIKELY NOT IMPROVED

With his seat in jeopardy, Erik Paulsen suddenly turns green

Congressman Erik Paulsen's new campaign commercial opens with soulful piano and a zoom in on a family photo album. Then comes Paulsen, in voiceover form:

"My parents taught me to love the outdoors," the Eden Prairie Republican says. "I camp and canoe with my family in Minnesota's Yellowstone: the Boundary Waters."

The Boundary Waters are a gem for outdoor enthusiasts—234,000 acres of untouched wilderness, miles from any human activity. And as the congressman sees it, they represent a key difference between his politics and those of President Donald Trump.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration reversed an Obama-era decision to restrict mining in the area, allowing Twin Metals to renew its old leases near Ely. This kind of mining produces toxic byproducts when exposed to air, rain, and snow. It's notorious for leaching

poison into surrounding land, water, and wildlife.

When Trump tried to strip protections from Minnesota's Yellowstone, Paulsen said "No way."

"I'm for mining—just not there."

He's a different kind of Republican, the ad implies. One not afraid to stand up to the president or his party to protect Minnesota's greatest treasure.

But the Erik Paulsen in the commercial doesn't sound at all like the one who's been representing Minneapolis' western suburbs.

Paulsen votes in line with Trump 97.6 percent of the time, including to repeal a rule requiring energy companies to reduce waste and emissions. He also voted to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and to cut \$16 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Paulsen's environmental record verges on cartoon villain territory. The League of Conservation Voters, which tracks members

of Congress on votes concerning clean water, fighting climate change, and wildlife protection, gives him a lowly 14 percent score for 2017—on a scale of 100. His lifetime score: just 16 percent.

As for his independence, Paulsen's financial statements read like the ultimate swamp-creature resume. He's taken \$1.6 million from PACs—putting him in eighth place for special interest money in the entire House. That includes \$200,000 from the oil and gas industry.

"Canoeing for the cameras is a cute stunt, but when it comes to actually protecting clean water and public lands, Erik Paulsen is misleading Minnesotans," says the League of Conservation Voters' Alyssa Roberts. "How are we supposed to trust Erik Paulsen to keep his word when his votes say otherwise?"

Still, Alex Falconer of Save the Boundary Waters is grateful for the nod, even if it's only a onetime campaign ploy.



GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE

Paulsen's environmental record verges on cartoon villain territory.

"He really recognizes that his constituents don't want this sort of mine adjacent to the Boundary Waters," he says.

Falconer can't speak to the rest of Paulsen's career. He's just hoping the congressman will make good on this promise. —HANNAH JONES

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Revenge of the Nerd

A Minneapolis man sued Equifax all by himself. You probably should, too.

Daniel got his first credit card as a teenager growing up in a Twin Cities suburb. It came with strict instructions from his parents: Use it only on small expenses like filling your gas tank. For everything else, pay for it from your bank account.

After nearly a decade of paying credit card bills on time, Daniel, now 26, can nearly recite his “excellent” credit score off the top of his head. That number’s been invaluable in his career as a budding tech entrepreneur.

“You need credit to run a business, obviously, but I guess I had kind of taken good credit for granted,” says Daniel, who asked to use a pseudonym. He’s been exposed enough as it is.

Like most Americans, he first heard of Equifax last fall, when the company disclosed it had allowed hackers to make off with the private information of 147 million Americans. Equifax, one of the “big three” credit reporting agencies, had diversified its business by trading in the most sensitive facts there are. Beyond credit scores and card numbers, Equifax coveted Social Security numbers, medical histories, and information on how much people make.

Maybe you don’t remember giving any of this to Equifax. That’s because you didn’t. Your bank or credit card company probably did. Your employer might have, too: Equifax collects data from thousands of American employers, including the three-fourths of Fortune 500 companies it counts as customers.

The scale of the data breach was historic, the risk to average, unwitting Americans

unprecedented. Overnight, Equifax rocketed from obscurity to public enemy.

Then the news cycle turned over, floating new villains into view. Most Americans moved on.

Not Daniel. He was pissed about the thought of his pristine score, built on years of restraint, suddenly vulnerable to any identity thief with enough wits to download a file.

And professionally, as someone “very into security and tech,” he sounds disgusted when he talks about Equifax’s failure to protect information. Soon after announcing its exposure, the company fingered a culprit: a single employee, whose job it was to inform its cybersecurity team to apply a patch, a simple upgrade that would’ve repaired a vulnerability in its storage system.

The missing patch had been available for months, and Equifax ignored “simple instructions” to protect itself.

“It’s a stretch to even call what happened a ‘hack,’” Daniel says. “My parents are the kind of people who have trouble using an iPhone. But I put it like this: ‘Hey Mom and Dad, would you leave a spiral notebook with the names and Social Security numbers of 150 million Americans in a house with unlocked doors?’ That’s what these guys did.”

The more he read, the angrier he got. Daniel searched his name and Social Security number on Equifax’s hastily assembled crisis response site, and was informed he was one of the people affected. Equifax then ushered the exposed into a sign-up for one free year of identity theft protection. The fine print on that offer conveniently waived the user’s right to

sue Equifax, instead forcing them to go through arbitration, notoriously favorable to corporations over individuals.

Equifax later claimed the arbitration clause was a mistake, just one more minor oversight, and removed it.

Arbitration is so slanted toward businesses, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau approved a rule last year neutering such clauses by financial institutions. Republicans fought back on behalf of banks. Two months after the Equifax scandal, Donald Trump signed a law repealing the rule.

Daniel avoided Equifax’s trap. He contacted an acquaintance, attorney David Madgett, who took the case to small claims court. That went badly. “We get zero verdict,” Madgett says, “and the judge essentially yells at me... like, ‘I can’t believe you’re trying to bleed this company.’”

The judge cited Equifax’s offer of free identity theft protection “for life at no cost,” information he’d evidently gleaned from a corporate witness Equifax flew in to testify. This was untrue; Equifax was offering only one year of protection. If Daniel expected to live without risk of Equifax’s making beyond age 27, he’d be paying out of pocket.

He appealed to district court. Madgett advised his client to take the preemptive step of buying identity theft insurance before the trial. Now they weren’t arguing “speculative” costs from some future event. Daniel was already paying for Equifax’s screw-up, and planned to do so for at least the next several decades.

Equifax again flew in an expert witness, and its lawyers argued that data breaches have become fairly common,



Mike Mullen

and are not necessarily a sign of “negligent” behavior. Hearing this, Madgett scrapped his prepared closing argument. “I told the jury, ‘Don’t get lawyered. You don’t need to leave your common sense at the courtroom steps.’”

The jury would return a verdict of \$7,200 in Daniel’s favor, enough to pay for 25 years’ worth of identity theft insurance worth up to \$1 million. Similar judgments have come down in other states, but Madgett believes this jury’s award is the first of its kind in Minnesota. He expects more.

“It’s goddamned unbelievable Americans have to put up with it,” Madgett says. “This is not a consumer-facing business. It’s a business that deals—all their deals are with other businesses. People cannot opt out of dealing with this company. That’s the real travesty.”

Equifax politely declined to comment for this story. “We do not have anything to add at this time,” a spokesperson said.

So if you have any questions for them, about what they did with your most valuable and carefully held secrets, consider asking them before a judge. 

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X GAMES

CARDI B ISN'T COMING to your X Games party. Not even for five minutes.

Spotlight-seeking missiles like Ms. B only turn up for events like the Super Bowl. The glitz, glamour, and frostbite that accompanied that happening are long gone, and not soon to return. If Minneapolis hosts that game again, it will mean every other American city is under water, on fire, or both.

Not so for the X Games. After a strong first outing in Minneapolis last summer—110,000 attendees over four days—ESPN's extreme sports festival doubled down, extending its contract with the city through 2020. When that run's over, Minneapolis will have hosted the summer X Games for four years straight—more than any other city except Los Angeles.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, in a reference to the time people (including the boyish mayor-elect) rode a zipline across the Mississippi River, welcomed the X Games extension by saying Minneapolis had “shown the world we know how to live on the edge.”

Sure. Maybe more important, we've shown the world we can be a polite, functioning city when we're besieged by out-of-towners. Even the kind willing to pay an average of about \$4,000 a ticket, as Super Bowl attendees did.

The X Games is different. Try gouging this crowd on \$36 chips-and-guac and you'll wind up with the mini-riot you deserve.

On Thursday night, BMX bikers and skateboarders will take to the vert ramp outside U.S. Bank Stadium for two of the X Games' marquee events. And it's free. Can you imagine another event sending out its biggest names in their most dramatic moment, and telling people to walk right up, no charge?

Last year's skateboard vert featured something of a passing—or grabbing—of the torch. X Games legend Bob Burnquist (14 gold medals, and 30 overall) made his final run in that event, and 21-year-old Moto Shibata became its youngest (and first Japanese) gold medalist ever. Shibata blessed his winning turn with a spellbinding last-second trick, rotating once in the air while whipping his skateboard around twice.

A “kamikaze,” he called it. Shibata ought to get naming rights, because he'd never landed one in competition before. No one else even tries it.

Who will be the next performer to land something no one's ever seen before? What will we name that next frontier? Walk right up, Minneapolis. We get three more years to find out. ➤

X GAMES 2018 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 19

5pm Pacifico Skateboard Vert Qualifier

9pm Pacifico Skateboard Vert Final

10:15pm Pacifico BMX Vert Final

FRIDAY, JULY 20

12pm SoFi Women's Skateboard Street Qualifier

1pm Fruit of the Loom BMX Dirt Qualifier

2:45pm Monster Energy Men's Skateboard Street Qualifier

4pm Next X Skateboard Park Final

4:30pm Next X Skateboard Street Final

5:30pm BMX Street Final

6:30pm Dave Mirra's BMX Park Best Trick Final

7:45pm Moto X QuarterPipe High Air Final

8:45pm The Real Cost BMX Big Air Final

9:45pm Moto X Freestyle Final

10:30pm GEICO X Games Music: Kaskade

SATURDAY, JULY 21

12pm LifeProof Moto X Step Up Final

1:30pm Toyota Men's Skateboard Park Final

3:45pm SoFi Women's Skateboard Street Final

6pm Fruit of the Loom BMX Dirt Final

7:15pm Moto X Best Whip Final

7:45pm Monster Energy Moto X Best Trick Final

8:30pm Skateboard Big Air Final

9:45pm GEICO X Games Music: Brother Ali

11pm GEICO X Games Music: Ice Cube

SUNDAY, JULY 22

10:30am Harley-Davidson Hooligan Racing Round One and Semi Finals

11:30am Harley-Davidson Flat Track Racing & Harley Hooligan Racing Finals

1pm Women's Skateboard Park Final

2:15pm Monster Energy Men's Skateboard Street Final

3:30pm Men's BMX Park Final

5:30pm GEICO X Games Music: Zedd

SUNDAY JULY 22



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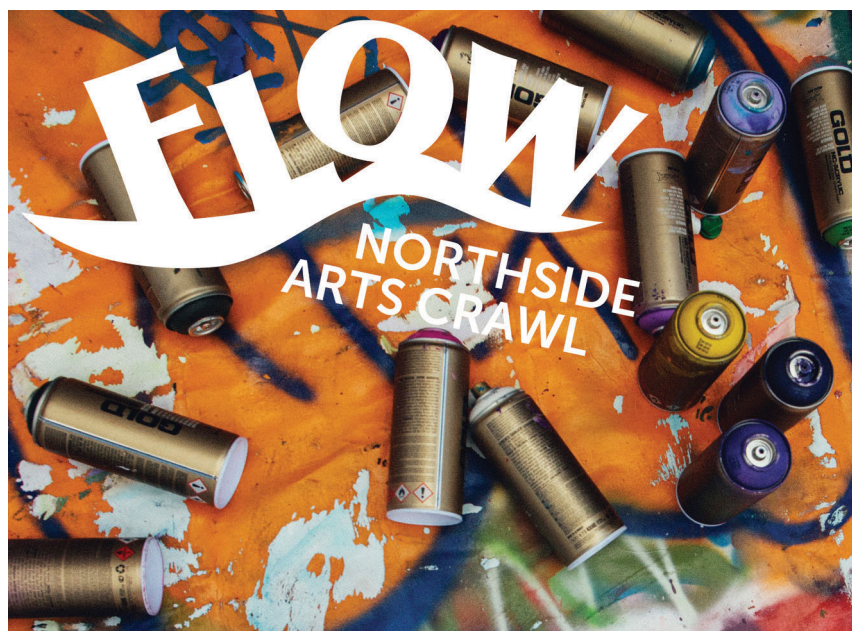
3PM THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)
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6PM GRAHAM PARKER BRIT MUSIC LEGEND

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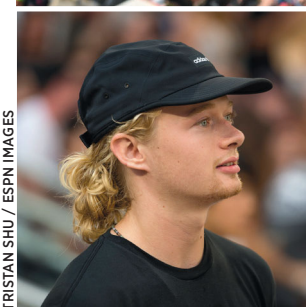
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ERIC LARS BAKKE/ ESPN IMAGES



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ALEC MAJERUS

SKATEBOARDER /
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA / 23

Who's your all-time X Games idol and why?

It'd probably have to be Ryan Sheckler, just because when I was little he's who I looked up to and who I wanted to be, basically. I'd watch X Games and see him in it on TV.

If you were to compare your style to that of an athlete from the Big Four leagues—NBA, NFL, MLB, NHL—which athlete and why?

To be honest, I don't know any sports players. I only skate. I started skating when I was 8, and it basically took over my life at that point, and I never did anything else.

How did growing up in Rochester uniquely influence you as a skater?

Local competitions got me really motivated to wanna skate bigger contests. I just kept doing bigger and bigger con-

tests, until I was in the pro ones. Sometimes it's hard in Minnesota, because there's not a lot going on, so you really have to stand out.

In a philosophical sense, what is the gnar, and why must it be shredded?

[Laughs] The gnar is ... people say that because they wanna go for broke, ya know? Push themselves to the limit.

What's your ultimate goal for X Games 2018 in Minneapolis?

I really just wanna have fun and do my best. I'm not looking to win or anything, but if I did, that'd be great. I just wanna have all my friends and family there and have a good time.

What makes skateboarding the greatest sport ever?

There's no rules. It's all you and what you want to do. There's no coach, no practice times, none of that; it's all self-motivation. It's completely you and your skateboard, and that's it. Like I used to be in soccer when I was little, and I'd just get bummed at them *making* us practice. With skating, it's just completely free—you do whatever you want.

Where's your go-to spot to eat in the Twin Cities?

When I was younger, I used to really love Raising Cane's, the chicken finger place. I don't eat meat anymore, but when I was little, that was the spot.

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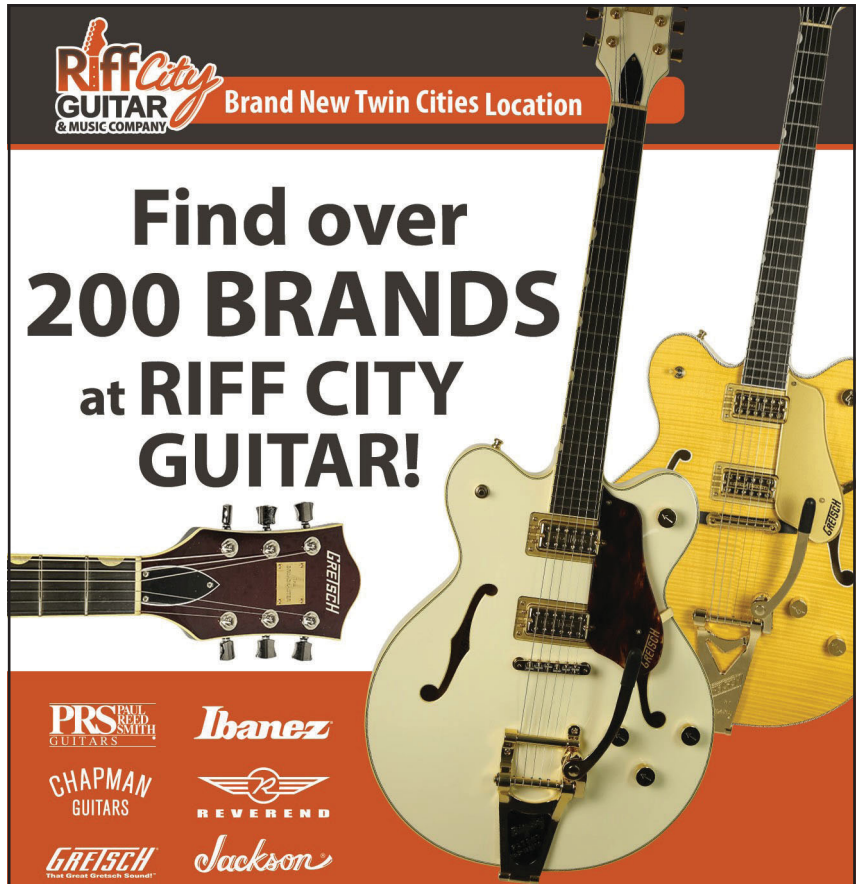
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NICOLE HAUSE

SKATEBOARDER / STILLWATER, MINNESOTA / 20



ERIC LARS BAKKE / ESPN IMAGES

Who's your all-time X Games idol and why?

I'd probably say Tom Schaar because I saw him as a kid. He was like 12 and I was like 14, and he was doing the mega-ramp and doing all this crazy stuff as a young kid. I think that inspired me to do stuff like that. You're like, "That kid can do it? I can too."

How did growing up in Stillwater uniquely influence you as a skater?

I would skate by myself a lot, so it allowed me to have my own inspiration. Instead of picking things up from other people, a lot of tricks I do are solely because I wanted to do them, not because I saw somebody else do them. And I feel like that still translates through.

If you were to compare your style to that of an athlete from the Big Four leagues—NBA, NFL, MLB, NHL—which athlete and why?

I like Allen Iverson; [he's] the shit, but I don't think that applies to me, but Allen Iverson is one of my favorites. I gave him knuckles one time. He did not give a shit—he was a little dude and he was really fast, really good.

In a philosophical sense, what is the gnar, and why must it be shredded?

That's a great question! I honestly don't even know what to say, because I don't even know ... I just say it—"Shred the gnar!" I've always said it, but it doesn't really make any sense.

What's your ultimate goal for X Games 2018 in Minneapolis?

To put down a run that I think is super



PHIL ELLSWORTH / ESPN IMAGES

"You don't have to give a shit about what anyone else thinks."

sick, and to do a new trick.

What makes skateboarding the greatest sport ever?

The individuality. It's like unlimited possibilities of what you can do; there's no right or wrong way to do it, and that's cool to me. You don't have to give a shit about what anyone else thinks.

Where's your go-to spot to eat in the Twin Cities?

[Oakdale chicken-wing joint] :D-Spot. :D-Spot's the shit—I want :D-Spot right now! Usually I get picked up at the airport, and we go right to :D-Spot.



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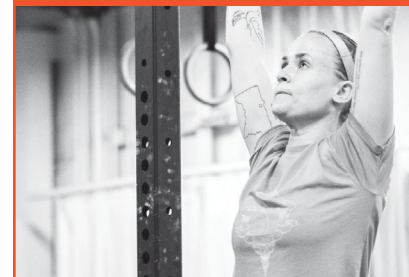
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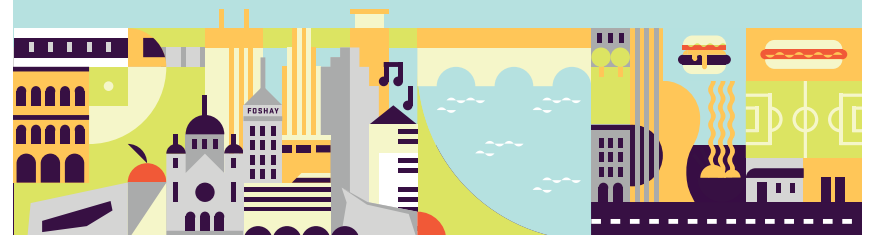
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COLTON WALKER

BMXER / NEW RICHMOND, WISCONSIN / 21

PHIL ELLSWORTH / ESPN IMAGES



Who's your all-time X Games idol and why?

I'd probably have to say Brett Banasiewicz. He's not competing anymore, he had an accident—a head injury—but he was always my favorite rider. He just made everything look really easy; he had a really positive outlook on life and a unique riding style.

How did growing up in New Richmond uniquely influence you as a BMXer?

Me and my brother always did sports together—skateboarding, dirt bikes—but I switched over to BMX. My family used to go to a campground every summer that had a skate park called Jellystone, and one time I brought my bike. It stuck with me—I just loved riding my bike, kept doing it and doing it, and now we're here.

If you were to compare your style to that of an athlete from the Big Four leagues—NBA, NFL, MLB, NHL—which athlete and why?

It's hard because I'm not well acquainted with other sports. I don't really watch other sports. I'm trying to think... I definitely respect LeBron James.

In a philosophical sense, what is the gnar, and why must it be shredded?

Man, that's a hard one too. I don't think "shred the gnar" is a specific thing, people just say it [to mean] like "do something crazy" or "go all out."

What's your ultimate goal for X Games 2018 in Minneapolis?

Definitely try to win Dirt again, but I'd



TRISTAN SHU / ESPN IMAGES

"You can be your own person, do what you wanna do."

love to podium in both Park and Dirt, for sure.

What makes BMX freestyle the greatest sport ever?

The freedom of it. You can be your own person, do what you wanna do. Obviously, [with] all of our fellow riders, we help each other out, but we're all free to learn and express ourselves in our own way. [There's no one] looking over us and telling us what to do.

Where's your go-to spot to eat in the Twin Cities?

I'd say the [Old] Spaghetti Factory. I really like Italian food.

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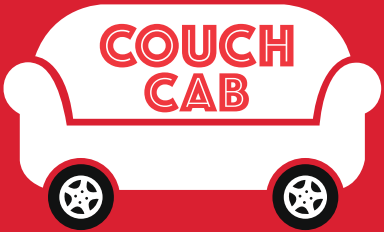
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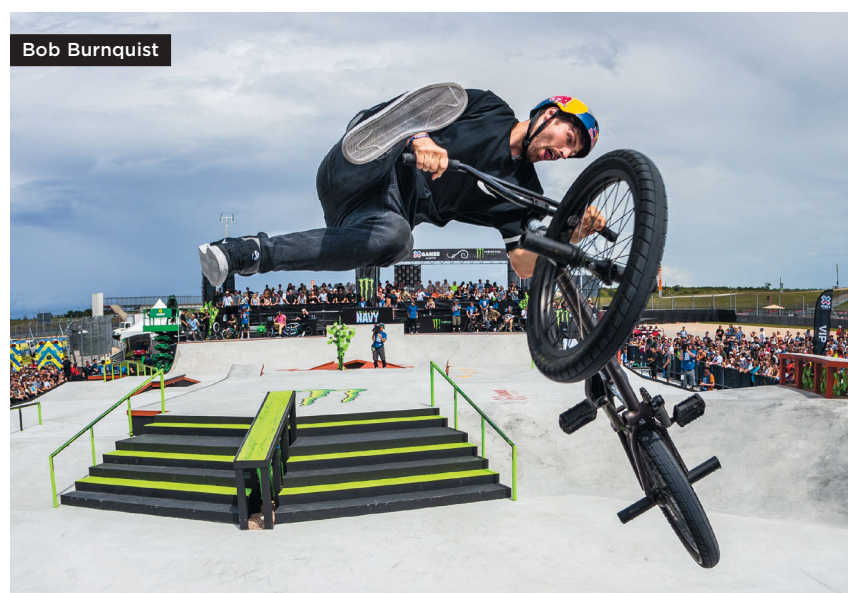


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TITANIC FEATS IN X GAMES HISTORY

BY SUSAN DU

1995: The inaugural “Extreme Games” took place in Newport, Rhode Island. It was a fringe sports center for such fringe disciplines as skateboarding, skysurfing, downhill luge racing, bungee jumping, and BMX. Early critics considered the gravity-defying, white-knuckle X Games more stunts than sports, but audiences fell in love with its new brand of alternative athletes and their lunatic gall. Original corporate sponsors were basically a Maslow’s Hierarchy of Skater Needs: Mountain Dew, Taco Bell, and Advil.

1999: Tony Hawk landed the first-ever 900 in the Skateboard Best Trick event—an insane 2.5 revolution airborne spin. Hawk made 10 excruciating attempts to land this trick during regulation time, wiping out each try. Nevertheless, organizers granted him one more chance past the clock, and he stuck the landing on his 11th pass, taking first place.

2000: Dave Mirra became the first BMX rider to land a double backflip at the X Games. He plummeted down a 20-foot vert wall for speed, squared up for this highly anticipated trick, and sailed effortlessly through the rest of what has become a legendary run. In 2016 Mirra died, bringing attention to depression in athletes. He had been the first extreme sports star to be diagnosed with CTE, a condition brought on by repetitive brain trauma.

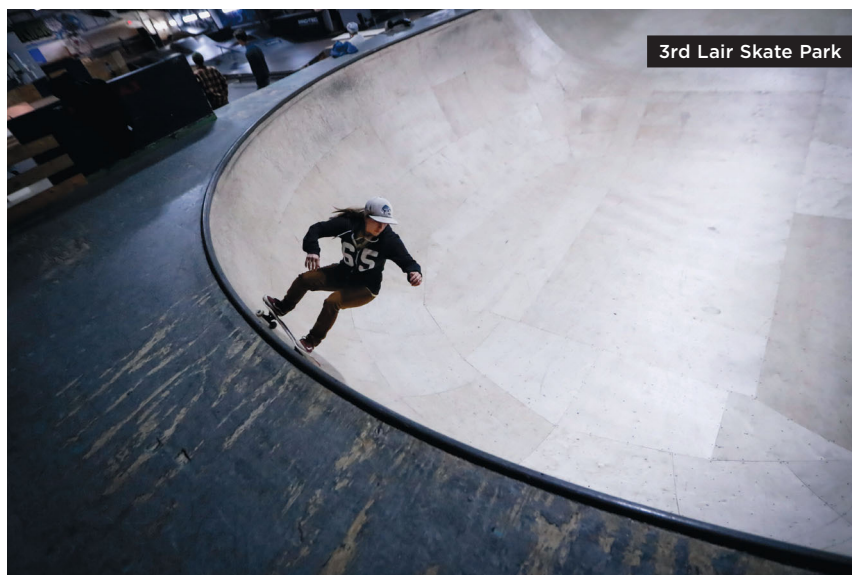
2003: With a mouthful of braces, 13-year-old Ryan Sheckler won the Skateboard Park event, becoming the youngest X Games

gold medalist. He’s starred in his own MTV show, appeared in a Justin Bieber music video, and continues to skate to this day. Longtime X Games fans have pretty much watched this kid grow up. He kept his record until 2017, when Brighton Zuener took gold in Women’s Skateboard Park on her 13th birthday.

2009: Ashley Fiolek became the first deaf athlete to medal when she earned first place in Women’s Moto X Super X event. Her explosive debut at the X Games inspired subsequent generations of adaptive athletes, and her famous friendship with Iranian motocross racer Noora Naraghi encouraged women across the world to pursue extreme sports.

2012: BMX star Garrett Reynolds won his fourth street competition—which is remarkable, because at that point, there’d been only four of these events in X Games history. He went on to get one silver medal in 2013, but then quickly recovered to take gold in every BMX freestyle street event afterward. He’s more or less the most immaculate BMX rider in the world.

2017: By the time Brazilian skateboard master Bob Burnquist retired from the X Games at 40 years old, he’d racked up 30 medals (including 14 gold), making him the most decorated X Games athlete ever. Though Burnquist has medaled in every skateboard category, he was the undisputed king of Big Air, which involves taking an elevator to the top of a 70-foot-tall ramp and surrendering oneself to the mercy of gravity while throwing in some fancy tricks for good measure.



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Familia HQ

Located in northeast Minneapolis, Familia HQ is another place to shop, whether you're in the market for a Bart Simpson board or just want to pick up some sneakers and tees. There's also an indoor skatepark where you can practice on ramps, rails, and edges. Open skate will set you back \$12, or \$6 if you're a member. 835 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, 612-379-3080; www.familiaskateshop.com.

Overpass Skate Park

Operated by 3rd Lair Skate Park, Overpass is one of the biggest skate parks in

the metro area. Here you'll find a huge street course with piano banks, fun boxes, and kinked rails and staircases, as well as protective helmets and pads for rent. Admission is \$6 to \$8 (neighborhood discounts available). 100 Washington Ave. S., Hopkins, 763-797-5283; www.hopkinsmn.com.

YMCA Tri-City Skate Park

This facility features a concrete bowl and street-course elements for skateboarders, inline skaters, and freestyle bikes. Individual and group lessons are offered for those who need guidance. Admission ranges from \$3 to \$5, with season passes and deals available for residents in the area. 7355 York Ave. S., Southdale YMCA, Edina, 952-300-3656.

FREE COMMUNITY PARKS:

Armatage Park

This small neighborhood skatepark has steps and a ramp. 2500 W. 57th St., Minneapolis, 612-370-4912; www.minneapolis-parks.org.

Bottineau Field Park

This Northeast neighborhood park has it all: steps, ramps, rails, tacos, and more. 2000 Second St. NE, Minneapolis, 612-370-4958; www.minneapolis-parks.org.

Brackett Community Center and Park

You'll find a little bit of everything here, from ramps to rails. 2728 39th Ave. S., Minneapolis, 612-370-4924; www.minneapolis-parks.org.

Brooklyn Park Skate Park

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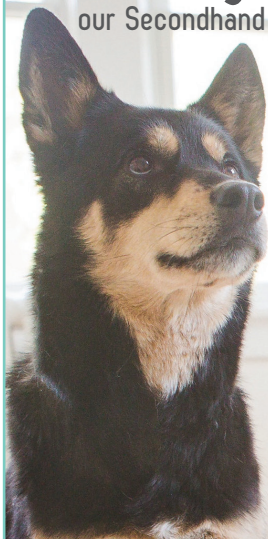
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Pkwy., Burnsville; 952-895-4653; www.burnsville.org/skatepark.

Creekview Community Center

A southwest Minneapolis mini-park. 5001
Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis, 612-370-
4965; www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Elliot Park

This humble park has a ramp and a mul-
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around the corner. 1000 E. 14th St., Min-
neapolis, 612-370-4772; www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Front Park

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485 Stinson St., St. Paul; 651-266-6400.

Maple Grove Skate Plaza

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ledges, and a manual pad. 12951 Weaver
Lake Rd., Maple Grove, 763-494-6500;
maplegrovmn.gov.

Merriam Park Skate Park

Classes and clinics are offered at Mer-
riam Park Community Center. 2000 St.
Anthony Ave., St. Paul, 651-298-5766;
www.stpaul.gov.

Morris Park and Recreation Center

This small outdoor park features steps,
tacos, ramps, and rails at various heights
to practice on. 5531 39th Ave. S., Min-
neapolis, 612-370-4934; www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Shakopee Skate Park

This large (and relatively new) park offers
ramps, quarter pipes, wedges, planters,
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and low practice areas. 1255 Fuller St.
S., Shakopee, 952-233-9500; www.shakopeemn.gov.

OTHER RESOURCES:

The Minnesota Inline Skate Club hosts
large outdoor and indoor skate excursions.
You can find them at www.skateminnnesota.org.

For more information on local skate
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ZEN

AND THE ART OF SHREDDING A HALFPIPE



The author, left, with Nicole Hause

NICOLE HAUSE DIDN'T TEACH ME TO KICKFLIP, JUST EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT LIFE

BY EMILY CASSEL

I WASN'T LOOKING for enlightenment last week, when I ditched a meeting and routed my minivan toward Stillwater. No, like any adult with a 401K and enough gray hairs that they can no longer be obscured by strategic parting, I went west seeking skateboarding lessons.

A one-time snotty suburban youth and avid Sum 41 CD collector, I've always had a skating obsession fueled by Tony Hawk (the N64 game before the person, if we're being honest) and Bam Margera. It blew my mind to watch them in motion, bodies languid but movements scalpel-sharp, a math-rock song made physical.

For myriad reasons—among them, the fact that I wanted to look cool, and mom enforced a strict wrist guard rule when I hopped on my Reggie Rocket board—I've never really done it myself. Still, there's a Bob Burnquist buried somewhere in my soul, so I'm here, in 20-year-old skateboarder Nicole Hause's Stillwater barn, staring up at a towering indoor halfpipe to engage in some literal stunt journalism.

Have you ever been intimidated by a collection of plywood and nails? The 13-foot-tall vert ramp is, in technical terms, “hella scary,” its 90-degree drop a death trap for clumsy writers. Nicole couldn't

be less afraid—her dad built it for her when she was as old as it is high—and she starts from the base before rocketing up its sides, defying physics as she propels her small frame ever higher and then launches out the top.

Easy!

My target, on the other hand, is a quarter pipe in the corner no more than two or three feet tall. I'm nonetheless not sure I'll be able to accomplish what I want, which barely counts as skating: just ride up it and back down without falling on my ass.

Nicole kicks a board my way, but the trucks are set up for her—an Actual Skateboarder—and it wobbles like grip tape-covered jello beneath me. “This feels so... um, loose?” I say, cautiously. Nicole, bless her, picks up on my exceedingly subtle hint: “Let me get you a different board.”

My attempt to stall has been dispatched with. Now what?

“I feel like you just... figure it out,” Nicole answers when I ask how, exactly, you start skating. “Your body knows.”

This is some Yoda-fucking-with-Luke-level advice, but to be fair, my questions are virtually unanswerable. (“How do you make your feet stay on there?” “How do you balance?” “How are you... doing that?”) She's been skating since she was a kid; it's all raw talent and muscle memory. It's

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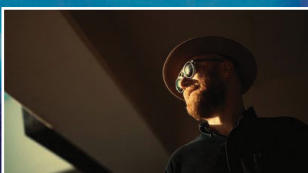
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like I asked her how to walk or pet a dog. And you know what? She's not wrong. You just... figure it out. Each time I attack the ramp (some would say "tentatively roll up to it with less ferocity than a mall walker"), I inch the board higher. With each "run," I come closer to rolling back down without every self-preserving neuron in my brain telling me to jump right off.

There's a meditative quality in repeating the same motion over and over: kick, push, slide. (Bail.) Sensing that something about this is grabbing me, Nicole tells me about Mondays at 3rd Lair skate park in Golden Valley, when girls skate free. "You're doing good!" she says. "Sometimes I can tell with people, I'm like, they might not ever understand."

"I'll be the judge of that," the rogue board counters a split-second later, scooting out from under me as I emit a very cool, very involuntary squeak.

Nicole has other advice, too: Go faster and it's easier to balance, because you're not thinking so much about the impertinent contraption beneath your feet. Bend your knees, you need to have some give to make it work. Relax, because if you're overthinking, you're never going to get it right.

"You can't be afraid," she says at one point—not of falling, or of getting hurt,



PHIL ELLSWORTH / ESPN IMAGES

or of embarrassing yourself.

It all strikes me as very poignant chatter for the top of a vertical ramp. Nicole talks about how she got started, teaching herself the basics before signing up for skate camp. "At the time, I think I was just like 9 or 10 years old, so I didn't really care what other people thought of me."

But it's harder to try something new later in life, whether that's landing a new trick or hopping on a board in the first place. I'm surprised when she says she hits the park early, because she usually

prefers to practice—and to fail—in private.

And you're going to fail. A lot. I spend the whole morning failing; there's rarely a day Nicole doesn't fall off her board. She's unfazed, insisting that it's okay to fall. You should expect to. It's also okay to try to save yourself. You can always bail.

Adults should have to be bad at more stuff. We should all become late-in-life skateboarders. In the immortal words of Jake, the bendy yellow cartoon dog from *Adventure Time*: "Dude, sucking at something is the first step to being sorta

good at something."

My ever-patient coach promises it'll click—there's something that happens, a switch that flips, when you land something for the first time. And while land, in my case, means "roll up and down," she's right—when finally I glide up and down the quarter pipe, I get it. I'm able to do it the next three times I try.

"The human body," Nicole grins. "Infinite potential."

I came here for a skating lesson, and maybe the advice I got wasn't even specific enough to count as one. But I think it was. The lesson was "you just have to do it." The lesson was "you're already here, you might as well try and figure it out." "Do or do not, there is no..."

Oh my god. She literally did Yoda me.

Before I leave, Nicole generously offers to shoot some videos of me "shredding." When I queue them up at home later, they're laugh-out-loud-worthy: Not only does my gangly frame teeter around the entire time, but I'm rolling along at what I have to imagine is exactly one mile per hour. A baby could've out-crawled me.

And yet, in every one, I'm grinning, clearly having a ball as the two of us shout jokes back and forth.

I can't wait to start spending every Monday at 3rd Lair.

Sucking at something.



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AQUATENNIAL

PYREX GAMES

What exactly does one eat to fuel up for a day of dirt jumps and vert stunts?



GETTY IMAGES

BY EMILY CASSEL

X Games participants appear perpetually youthful—maybe because so many of them are literal youths. Jagger Eaton became the youngest competitor ever when he made his debut in 2012 at age 11; the youngest medalist is Alana Smith, who took home Women’s Skateboard Park silver in 2013 at age 12.

Their youth makes it seem like X Gamers would eat like typical teens, too—a diet that’s equal parts Pop Rocks, Doritos, and Red Bull. But is that really the case? They’re athletes, and whipping your body through the air like a tornado on wheels probably requires some vitamins and minerals, right?

We asked a handful of the Gamers coming to Minneapolis this year to run us through a dietary day in the life.

Dennis Enarson, 27, BMX

“An ideal day, when I’m home and eating what I want, I would definitely start it with a smoothie just packed with a bunch of good stuff,” Dennis Enarson says. The odds are good he’ll spend the whole day out riding, and since it’s tough to down a burrito while you’re on a bike, he crams his blender to the brim: “Like, all-natural—put turmeric in there, ginger, a whole lemon, spinach. I’ll do hemp seeds, milk, almond butter, bananas—the list goes on and on.”

If he has lunch, it’s a “more chill,” smaller meal: a sandwich, fruit and nuts, a salad, something with clean protein. For dinner, he’ll often dine out with friends, but he doesn’t go for fried chicken or the burger, opting instead for a balanced plate of greens and meat, frequently fish. And speaking of fish, the guy drinks like one—not beer, but water. California’s hot, and he’s active. “I stay chuggin’ water.”

The BMX biker wasn’t always this aware of his eating—it used to be 99-cent TV dinners and Totino’s pizza rolls all the way. (“I just drank booze and ate terrible food.”) That changed after an injury, when he turned to anti-inflammatory ingredients like the aforementioned turmeric—plus greens and fruits and fish—to help him heal.

It’s a diet Enarson estimates puts him at about the middle of the pack, health-consciousness-wise. Some BMX riders have their meal plans down to a science and hit the gym every day. “And then there’s people who have never heard what a back roller is, and they’re drinking whiskey Cokes during the contest. There’s every end of it at BMX.”

Tyler Bereman, 26, Supercross and Motocross

For Bereman—and every athlete we spoke with—the biggest obstacle to consistent

healthy eating is the amount of travel wrapped up in their jobs.

“I’ve just been on so many airplanes in the last few months, and being in airports and having layovers and trying to find good food is... virtually impossible,” he says. “I try to find hummus and crackers, or some salad or a chicken plate or something that’s not terribly bad for me. At least, I hope.”

He, too, is a reformed garbage eater; as a kid, he would munch on “whatever,” snagging bags of McDonald’s before hitting the track. But the more he started racing, the more he had to eat—and it can’t all be Dollar Menu deals. So he got serious about going for what made his body feel good and avoiding what didn’t. These days, it’s a lot of chicken and fish, with plenty of vegetables. He’s a sucker for sweets, so he always has oranges or berries on hand to scratch that itch.

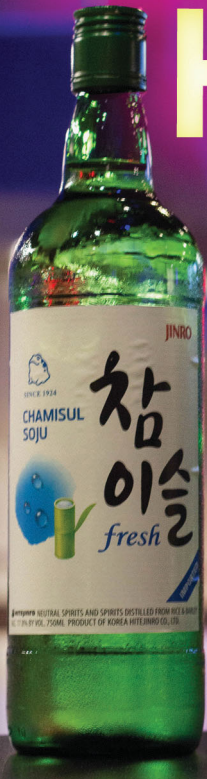


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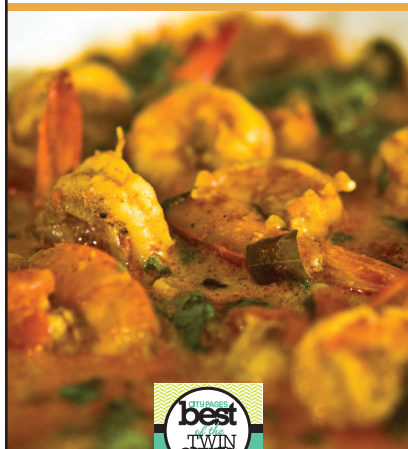
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FOOD

The occasional Hollywood stuntman hazards a guess that the freestyle moto-cross community is the least intentional about getting their recommended daily vitamins. “But when it comes to racers, a lot of those guys are on teams and have a specific diet plan and a nutritionist and a trainer and all that stuff. At the top level of racing, those guys are very,

**“Finding good food
in airports is virtually
impossible.”**

very, very conscious of what they eat.”

One thing Bereman is thoughtful about? How much he eats. He keeps his morning meal light—protein smoothie or shake, some oatmeal or some eggs—because, you know, he’s about to go rocketing off dirt ramps and doing backflips on a motorcycle. Turns out, that kind of thing can upset your stomach.

Jordyn Barratt, 19, Skateboard

Jordyn Barratt struggles with the diet-ruining reality of constant travel, too—but her situation is further complicated by the fact that she’s a vegetarian. “I was just in Spain, and in Spain, and Europe, literally all they have is meat, cheese, and beer,” she laughs. “I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, I guess I’ll have to eat some cheese. I hadn’t eaten cheese in months.’”

Barratt’s been a vegetarian since she was around 12; she made a bet with a friend to see if they could give up meat.

“I lasted the longest, and then I was like, ‘I’m just going to keep doing this.’ I feel way better when I don’t eat meat,” she explains. “And, plus, animals are my favorite thing ever. I didn’t really understand how that all worked, and then after, I was like, ‘Okay, I’m definitely never eating meat again.’”

At 19, she’s practically a vegan, except that she eats eggs. It’s a lot of rice and beans, and, as is apparently the case for everyone in extreme sports, she’s never met a smoothie she didn’t like. “I have a blender and I use that every day, for sure.” (As for the smoothie craze, she suggests that it’s probably a California thing.) She’s also a huge fan of acai bowls.

And she adds that being on the go doesn’t always make for disastrous eating. In China, she ordered a sushi-like lotus root dish that’s one of the best dishes she’s ever had.



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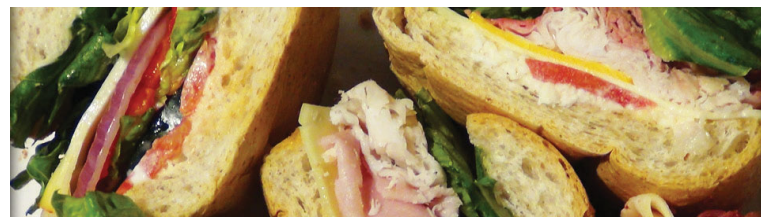
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A LIST

FRIDAY Burlesque inspired by Weird Al P. 35

SATURDAY Red Hot Art Festival returns P. 35

MONDAY LALA Fest performs for a week P. 37

WEDNESDAY 7.18

FESTIVAL

MINNEAPOLIS AQUATENNIAL

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Now in its 78th year, the Minneapolis Aquatennial is a celebration of the city. In addition to longstanding favorites like the Torchlight Parade (Wednesday) and the massive fireworks finale (Saturday), this year's party will include yard games on Hennepin County Government Center's South Plaza (Wednesday) and lunchtime piano performances (Thursday). For those looking to put the "aqua" in Aquatennial, Wednesday's Loring Park Family Fun Night will include free canoeing and paddling instruction from Wilderness Inquiry, and the always popular Twin Cities River Rats water ski show is happening Thursday and Friday nights. Sadly, the Aquatennial Beach Bash, with milk carton boat races and sandcastle building, is no more. However, the Minneapolis Fire Department and Kids' Zone will still be a part of the festivities. Run the Torchlight 5K, pick up your 2018 Skipper Pin, and get ready for the "Best Days of Summer" once again. For a complete schedule, check out www.aquatennial.com. **Through Saturday** —PATRICK STRAIT

COMEDY

ANDY KINDLER

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After appearing at Acme, Andy Kindler will be off to Montreal to deliver his State of the Industry address at the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival. "The thing is, the Louis C.K. stuff happened after last year's speech," he says. "So I haven't had a chance to gloat in Montreal about how I was one of the first people to call him out just based on my own bitterness, jealousy, and envy. Now who backed the right horse?" On the social media front, Kindler has been unusually quiet as of late. "I was addicted to Twitter," he confesses. "I was spending too much time on it. In the old days you'd work on material, but today there are way more ways to

Hijack dances through the Hair and Nails Gallery this week.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 ►

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KEVIN HORN

CONTINUED FROM WEDNESDAY ►

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ART/MUSEUM

BETH DOW: PREDICTION ERROR

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Pictures lie; photographer Beth Dow will be the first to tell you this. But our brains don't always give us accurate information, either. When processing new data, we draw from our bank of

previous experience. Often, we're right. But sometimes our brains make what's called a "prediction error." Through still-life photographs of fruit and flowers, Dow explores what happens when we can't quite make sense of what we're seeing. In her conceptual landscapes, she takes viewers through the Badlands in full color, a departure from previous exhibitions of black-and-white images of formal gardens and rural scenes. In her series "The Valley," she examines topography through an eerie, almost extraterrestrial lens that will make you question everything you thought you understood about landscape photography. Dow was born in Minneapolis and raised in Brooklyn Park by a photographer father, Ron Dow, who passed away last month. His influence, she says, is scattered throughout this show, which takes place in the same museum where he exhibited in 1967. There will be a public reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, August 16. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3131. **Through October 28 —ERICA RIVERA**

COMEDY

MARONZIO VANCE

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"I'm looking at comedy differently now," says Maronzio Vance. "It's always been a business, but it's more a business now than ever before because you as a comedian are a business. I don't think comics look at themselves as a business. We look at ourselves as artists and entertainers, which we are, but at the same time you've got to brand yourself. You got know what you're selling." To that end, Vance resists doing late night talk shows. "No one watches late-night TV anymore," he says. "The people you're

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FEATURED SHOWS

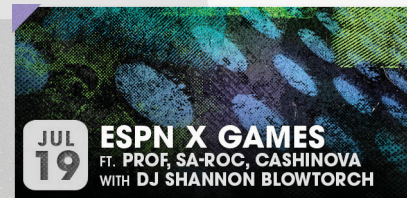


SUN JUL 29
MELVINS
WITH JON SPENCER
FIRST AVENUE \$20 / 7:30PM DOORS / 18+

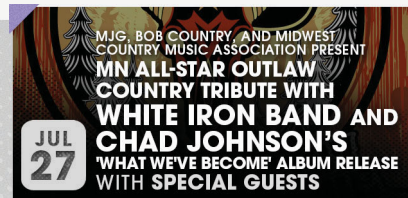


89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
BEN HARPER AND CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE
PALACE THEATRE \$49.50/\$75 RESERVED LOGE / 7PM DOORS / 18+

UP NEXT FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



JUL 19
ESPN X GAMES
FT. PROF. SA-ROC, CASHINOVA
WITH DJ SHANNON BLOWTORCH



JUL 27
M.J.G., BOB COUNTRY, AND MIDWEST COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION PRESENT
WHITE IRON BAND AND CHAD JOHNSON'S
"WHAT WE'VE BECOME" ALBUM RELEASE
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS



JUL 28
DJ KEEZY PRESENTS
THE KLITUATION
2 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY
WITH DJ SOPHIA ERIS, QUEENDUIN, LADY MIDNIGHT, SYMONE SMASH IT, AND MORE



AUG 02
GO 95.3 PRESENTS
PLAYBOI CARTI



AUG 04
FLIP PHONE XXL: SHORT SHORTS
CELEBRATING THE MUSIC FROM THE FLIP PHONE ERA "1997-2007"
STARRING CHI CHI DEVAYNE (RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ALL STARS)



AUG 10
FIRST AVENUE AND TIIIIIIIIIP PRESENT
A TRIBUTE TO OUTKAST



AUG 11
89.3 THE CURRENT AND ELECTRIC FETUS PRESENT
TRANSMISSION PRESENTS: THE '80S
FEATURING DJ JAKE RUDH



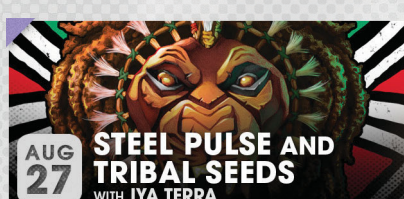
AUG 17
2ND ANNUAL SHINE A LIGHT FOUNDATION CHARITY EVENT
WITH SHANE MARTIN BAND, ALEX ROSSI, AND MORE



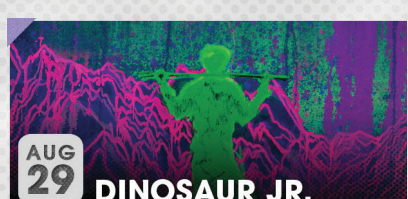
AUG 18
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
BAD BAD HATS
WITH SCRUNCHIES, JESSICA MANNING



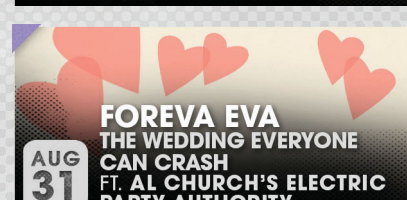
AUG 24
BUMP N GRIND: SUMMER EDITION



AUG 27
STEEL PULSE AND TRIBAL SEEDS
WITH IYA TERRA



AUG 29
DINOSAUR JR.



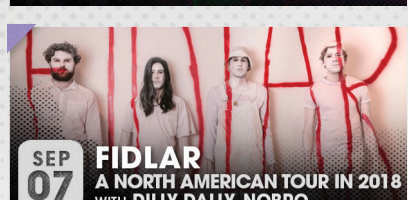
AUG 31
FOREVA EVA
THE WEDDING EVERYONE CAN CRASH
FT. AL CHURCH'S ELECTRIC PARTY AUTHORITY



SEP 01
93X PRESENTS
IMPALER, THE REGIME, DARE FORCE, AND KUBLAI KHAN



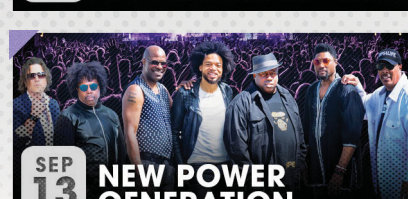
SEP 05
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
CAR SEAT HEADREST
WITH NAKED GIANTS



SEP 07
FIDLAR
A NORTH AMERICAN TOUR IN 2018
WITH DILLY DALLY, NOBRO



SEP 08
93X PRESENTS
FOZZY
THE JUDAS RISING TOUR
WITH ADELITA'S WAY, STONE BROKEN, THE STIR



SEP 13
NEW POWER GENERATION



SEP 14
NOTHING BUT THIEVES
WITH grandson, DEMOB HAPPY



SEP 17
CAFÉ TACVBA
WITH THE MARIAS



SEP 20
GIORGIO MORODER DJ SET
WITH DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION), DJ GRANT MAYLAND (DARK ENERGY)



SEP 27
DARK STAR ORCHESTRA



SEP 28
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE RECORD COMPANY
WITH MADISEN WARD & THE MAMA BEAR



SEP 29
LUCERO
WITH BRENT COWLES

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UP NEXT PALACE THEATRE



JUL 25
MY BLOODY VALENTINE

MY BLOODY VALENTINE



AUG 11
PUNCH BROTHERS
W/ MADISON CUNNINGHAM

PUNCH BROTHERS
W/ MADISON CUNNINGHAM



SEP 06
NEKO CASE
W/ THAO (of THE GET DOWN STAY DOWN)

NEKO CASE
W/ THAO (of THE GET DOWN STAY DOWN)



SEP 07
AN EVENING WITH DAWES: PASSWORDS TOUR

AN EVENING WITH DAWES: PASSWORDS TOUR



SEP 20+21
LEON BRIDGES
W/ KHRUANGBIN

LEON BRIDGES
W/ KHRUANGBIN

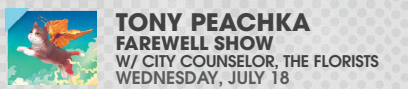


SEP 28
GREENSKY BLUEGRASS
W/ GHOST LIGHT

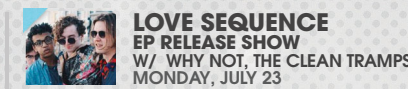
GREENSKY BLUEGRASS
W/ GHOST LIGHT

UP NEXT 7TH ST ENTRY

BEST CONCERT VENUE - CITY PAGES 2018



Tony Peachka
FAREWELL SHOW
W/ CITY COUNSELOR, THE FLORISTS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18



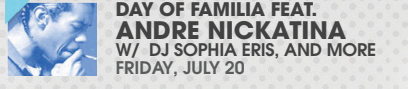
Love Sequence
EP RELEASE SHOW
W/ WHY NOT, THE CLEAN TRAMPS
MONDAY, JULY 23



Howlin Rain
W/ MOUNTAIN MOVERS
THURSDAY, JULY 19



CASTLECOMER
W/ STATIC PANIC
TUESDAY, JULY 24



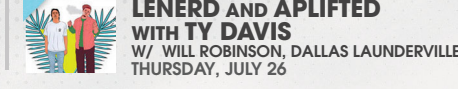
DAY OF FAMILIA FEAT. ANDRE NICKATINA
W/ DJ SOPHIA ERIS, AND MORE
FRIDAY, JULY 20



THE DONKEYS
W/ LAZY SCORSESE, TOTAL GAZE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

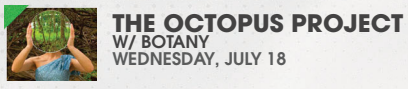


BLACK MILK WITH LIVE BAND NAT TURNER
W/ GREG GREASE, DJ JUST NINE
SUNDAY, JULY 22

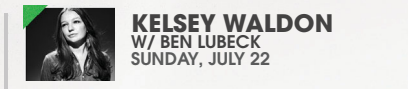


LENERD AND APLIFTED WITH TY DAVIS
W/ WILL ROBINSON, DALLAS LAUNDERVILLE
THURSDAY, JULY 26

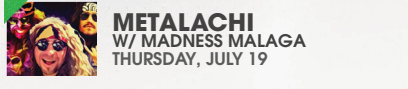
UP NEXT TURF CLUB



THE OCTOPUS PROJECT
W/ BOTANY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18



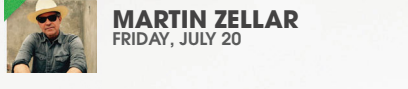
KELSEY WALDON
W/ BEN LUBECK
SUNDAY, JULY 22



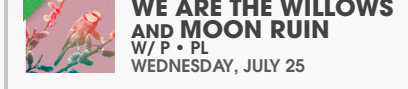
METALACHI
W/ MADNESS MALAGA
THURSDAY, JULY 19



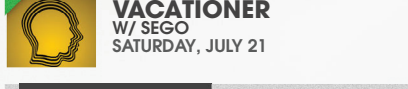
FIVE ALARM FUNK
W/ PURPLE FUNK METROPOLIS
TUESDAY, JULY 24



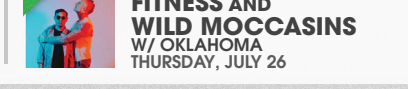
MARTIN ZELLAR
FRIDAY, JULY 20



WE ARE THE WILLOWS AND MOON RUIN
W/ P • PL
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

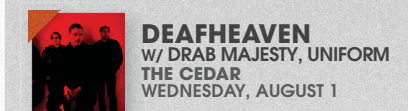


VACATIONER
W/ SEGO
SATURDAY, JULY 21

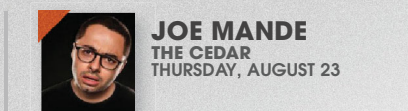


FITNESS AND WILD MOCCASINS
W/ OKLAHOMA
THURSDAY, JULY 26

UP NEXT OTHER VENUES



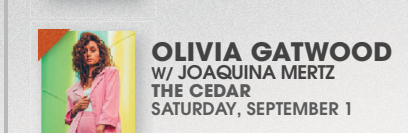
DEAFHEAVEN
W/ DRAB MAJESTY, UNIFORM
THE CEDAR
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1



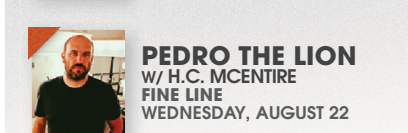
JOE MANDE
THE CEDAR
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23



SLEIGH BELLS
W/ TORRES
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16



OLIVIA GATWOOD
W/ JOAQUINA MERTZ
THE CEDAR
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1



PEDRO THE LION
W/ H.C. MCENTIRE
FINE LINE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22



AMANDA SHIRES
W/ LEAH BLEVINS
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

COMING SOON

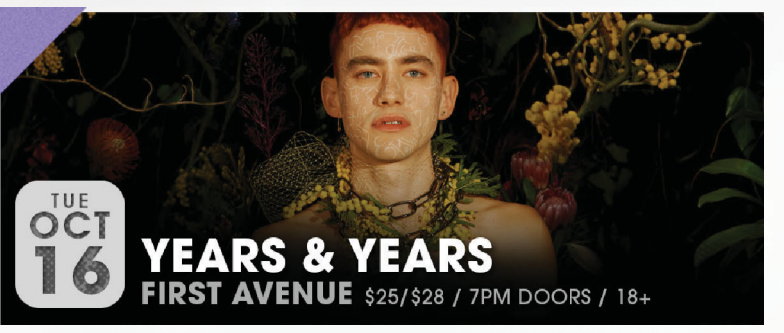


SAT JUL 21
FIRST AVENUE, JAM, SURLY BREWING, 89.3 THE CURRENT, AND CITY PAGES PRESENT
COURTNEY BARNETT
WITH JULIEN BAKER, LUCY DACUS
SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD
\$37.50/\$40 DOS / 4:30PM DOORS / 18+

JUST ANNOUNCED



SAT OCT 06
SECOND SHOW ADDED
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
WITH CHARLY BLISS
PALACE THEATRE \$47.50 / 7PM DOORS / 18+



TUE OCT 16
YEARS & YEARS
FIRST AVENUE \$25/\$28 / 7PM DOORS / 18+



FRI DEC 21 & SAT DEC 22
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE JAYHAWKS
FIRST AVENUE \$35 / 8PM DOORS / 18+



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A-LIST



COURTESY OF MIA

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

going to see on late-night TV, you're already following on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. You see what they're doing all day long." For the first time in his career, he feels like he's moving in the right direction after parting ways with a manager who didn't understand him. "I used to joke, 'I'm not black enough for black people, but sometimes I can be too aggressive for white people.' I'm in the middle." 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday through Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday —P.F. WILSON**

ART/GALLERY CRACKED PAVEMENT

GAMUT GALLERY

With snow and ice covering the ground for much of the year, it's amazing that the Twin Cities skate scene has been going strong for decades. As national pro athletes arrive in Minnesota to compete in the X Games at U.S. Bank Stadium, Gamut Gallery will be going local, revisiting our history and culture through skate-inspired art. Jeremy Lindvig reworks and restores vintage skate decks, repairing the wood and iconic artwork. Kevin Horn captures skater moves with a rare subtlety and skill. Dylan Strait's inky illustrations will give older skaters flashbacks, recalling the classic skate-punk aesthetic: crushed beer cans, zombie faces, miscellaneous filth. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 11 p.m. Thursday, July 19, featuring a pizza truck, raffle, and music by DJ Slam Dunkapher. Local film shorts will screen during a closing-night party from 8 to 10 p.m. Friday, August 3. Free; \$5 for opening

and closing receptions. 717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4327. **Through August 3 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART/GALLERY BLACK & WHITE BLUES

THE SHOW GALLERY

The M (otherwise known as the Minnesota Museum of American Art) hasn't closed up shop during its renovation. In fact, the museum with the incredible collection is on the move and more active than ever. This exhibition is one example: A partnership with the Show Gallery and the Lowertown Blues and Funk Fest that presents Marc Norberg's dynamic black-and-white photographs of iconic blues musicians. During the opening, there will be live music by Erik Christenson, followed by Ken Valdez (11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday). Other times, recordings by the performers immortalized in Norberg's photos will play in the gallery. Those recordings and the photos were collected in a 1995 book, as well. The opening party is on Thursday, July 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. Free. 346 N. Sibley St., St. Paul; 651-419-8022. **Through July 29 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

BIKES THIRD THURSDAY: BIKE NIGHT

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

This Thursday, folks from the Twin Cities cycling scene will be hanging out in Mia's backyard, sharing a bit of their bike love with revelers. Ride through the open doors to this outdoor party, where you'll find folks from 30 Days of Biking, the Cycling Museum of Minnesota, One on One Bicycle Studio, and Powderhorn 24, a 24-hour summertime bike race. Pose for pics in the photobooth, listen to tunes from punk-rock ladies the Scrunchies,



SARAH PETERS

and make some art. Beer, wine, and eats from the likes of Bacon Me Crazy, Fro Yo Soul, and Cafe Racer will be available. Meet at Surly Brewing for a pint and a friendly ride to the event around 4:30 p.m. (ride at 5:30 p.m.). 6 to 9 p.m. Free. 2400 S. Third Ave., Minneapolis; 612-870-3000. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

DANCE RHYTHM & FLOW

THE LAB THEATER

Danny Buraczeski, one of the world's most revered jazz choreographers and founder of the former Minneapolis company JAZZDANCE by Danny Buraczeski, was in town recently to produce his 1998 work "Points on a Curve" with Eclectic Edge Ensemble. It's that troupe's 15th anniversary. To celebrate, artistic director Karis Sloss also invited Zoe Sealy, Karla Grotting, and Cynthia Gutierrez-Garner—all fundamental to the development of jazz movement in the Twin Cities—to show works as well. A variety of EEE's work will also be performed. When asked about the future of jazz dance in the Twin Cities, Buraczeski has said the new generation includes "Karis and her company." 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$20/\$25 at the door; \$17 students. 700 First St. N., Minneapolis; 612-333-3377. **Through Sunday** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

FRIDAY 7.20

BURLESQUE AL-STRAVAGANZA

MOUNDS THEATRE

If it exists, someone finds it sexy. In the case of Weird Al, many people find the man and his tunes sexy. Tight and Nerdy is the world's first—and, let's be realistic, probably only—Weird Al Yankovic

burlesque troupe. This weekend, they will take to the stage of Mounds Theatre for two nights of raunch and randiness inspired by the iconic parody genius. There will be accordion jams, odes to Spam, and other fusions of titillation and tribute. Each evening will feature a costume contest, games, and themed cocktails. Plus, on Saturday night, a top-secret movie screening goes down following the show. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$20/\$25 at the door; \$35 VIP. 1029 Hudson Rd., St. Paul; 651-772-2253. **Through Saturday** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SATURDAY 7.21

ART/BOOKS

THE FLOATING LIBRARY

PHALEN PARK BEACH

Just in time for National Library Week, the Floating Library returns to Lake Phalen. Yes, that's right, it's a library that floats in the middle of a lake. On this raft you'll find an oasis of art books and reading material for your pleasure and perusal, along with friendly merfolk librarians who will guide you to reading material that strikes your fancy. To get to the Floating Library, all you have to do is rent a canoe, kayak, or paddle boat, available at the shore. (Paddle boats are highly recommended for their ease and convenience in the reading-and-paddling department.) The library is filled with books created and donated by artists, submitted through an open call process. It's a great opportunity to check out some zines and indulge in visual delights, all while blissfully soaking in the sun on a beautiful lake. For more info, visit thefloatinglibrary.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37 ►



SUMMER IS NOT OVER YET!

JULY

- 7/23 Joe Jackson with special guest Faith Boblett
- 7/25 Guster with special guest Van William
- 7/28 Rufus Wainwright with special guest Lucy Wainwright Roche

AUGUST

- 8/4 Jerry Jeff Walker with special guest Django Walker
- 8/10 Marc Cohn with special guest Brianna Kocka
- 8/11 The Mavericks with special guest Almighty American
- 8/12 The Mavericks with special guest Almighty American
- 8/13 Son Volt with special guest David Huckfelt
- 8/14 Blackberry Smoke and JJ Grey & Mofro
- 8/19 The Okee Dokee Brothers
- 8/25 Michael Franti & Spearhead with special guests AHI & HIRIE
- 8/27 Ziggy Marley



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A-LIST

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

org. 1 to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.
Free. 1400 Phalen Dr., St. Paul.
Through August 5 —SHEILA REGAN

ART/DANCE/FASHION

WITCH DISTRICT STITCH

HAIR AND NAILS GALLERY

Downtown dance darling Kristin Van Loon and her cohort Ryan Fontaine combine their interests in this lively event at their gallery, Hair and Nails. Screen-printed details from Fontaine's paintings find their way into wearable art by Los Angeles artist/musician Rachel Blomgren, worn by models dancing through the galleries and backyard sculpture garden. Clothing by local artist/musician Rebecca Spangenthal will also be on display in the garden. Meanwhile, movers Laurie Van Wieren, Amal Rogers, and Hijack (Van Loon and Arwen Wilder) perform on the walls, in the basement, and under the trees. Yes, there's music, too. And Fontaine's new painting and sculpture show, "The Confounding Variable," will be on view. 7:30 to 11 p.m. Free. 2222 1/2 E. 35th St., Minneapolis; 612-229-0585. —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

ART/FESTIVAL

RED HOT ART FESTIVAL 2018

STEVENS SQUARE PARK

Before the massive art shows featuring national touring artists take over downtown and south Minneapolis, Red Hot Art will bring the local creative community together for two days. Over 150 Twin Cities artists will be showcasing their work, including screen printers, jewelry designers, and oddity collectors. There will be hands-on activities, demonstrations, kids' fun, and more each day. Around 20 different musical acts will play tunes over the weekend, and food trucks will be stopping by. All of it comes with cool downtown views just around the corner. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Free. 1801 Stevens Ave., Minneapolis. Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER

HAND TO GOD

JUNGLE THEATER

Teenage angst can manifest in myriad ways. *Hand to God's* young protagonist, mild-mannered Jason, unleashes his repressed emotions through an offensive puppet named Tyrone. The situation takes an even more troubling turn when it becomes clear that Jason views Tyrone not just as a separate



This puppet runs the show.

WILLIAM CLARK

entity, but a demonic being capable of possessing his very soul. Played out on Jason's hand, this Jekyll and Hyde struggle is exacerbated by the play's setting, an otherwise sedate church-basement gathering of the Christian Puppet Ministry, a group led by Jason's anxious mother, overseen by the local pastor, and attended by two other teens. Soon enough, the staid room and its hapless inhabitants are subjected to a weird battle pitting virtue against vice. Beyond its scathing humor, *Hand to God* works as a poignant character study, especially when performed with the emphatic nuances of Riley O'Toole (reprising the role after an acclaimed production with Utah's Salt Lake Acting Company), under the assured direction of Jungle Theater's resident director, Christina Baldwin. The show is in previews July 18-20. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$37-\$47. 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-7063. Through August 19 —BRAD RICHASON

FESTIVAL

ANNUAL ART CAR + ART BIKE PARADE

LAKE HARRIET

Art Cars and Art Bikes have special powers: They can make you smile while sitting in traffic, they add whimsy when they're simply parked in your neighborhood, and they're a unique sight in a sea of Hondas, Fords, and Chevrolets. For the past 24 years, Art Car owners have come together each summer to ride in front of spectators. Head to the Rose Garden this Saturday, or any nearby grassy knoll, as these steel works of art slowly make their way around Lake Harriet. Past years

have seen cars decorated with mosaic tiles, lipstick kisses, and toys. Come watch the parade, then spend an evening at the beach or get some ice cream. 6 p.m. Free. 4124 Roseway Rd., Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

MONDAY 7.23

LGBTQ/THEATER

LALA FESTIVAL

RED EYE THEATRE

The Live Art/Live Artfully (LALA) Festival returns for its second year with a week full of experimental performances, discussions, artist speed dating, and more. Featuring both local and New York artists, this year's festival emphasizes the importance of building a healthier, more inclusive national performance community. There will be self-help book explorations, drag queen evenings, afro-punk sessions, and meditations on sexual intimacy and kitsch. Highlights include Paige Collette's delightfully poignant *The Monica Meditations*, a piece about the Monica Lewinsky scandal that was previously part of the New Works 4 Weeks festival at Red Eye. See it Thursday night, along with Michael R. Jackson's *Burning to a Crisp Under the Hot White Ga(yz)e*, a new work about black queer identity, and Stacey Rose's *Legacy Land*, in which two sisters revisit their dark past. Be sure to check out Monday's kick-off event, a talent show starring all of the artists in the festival. Find the complete list of times and locations at lalafestival.com. Prices range from free to \$10. Locations vary, though many happenings are at Red Eye: 15 W. 14th St, Minneapolis. Through July 29 —SHEILA REGAN

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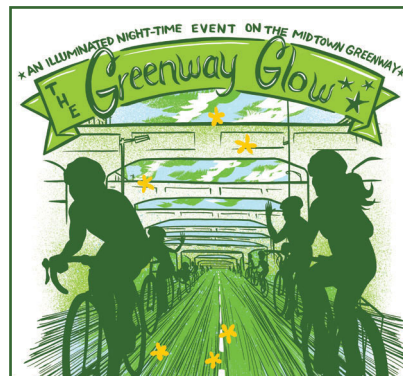
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The Midtown Greenway Coalition presents:

The Greenway Glow

Arts Festival
and Bike Ride

SATURDAY, JULY 28TH
6PM - 12AM



midtowngreenway.org

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15th ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS ROCKS! TOUR

With special guest *Lara Hope & the Ark-Tones*

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NO RECESS

Bo Burnham's *Eighth Grade* is a sweet, perceptive study in teen awkwardness



Elsie Fisher

PHOTO BY LINDA KALLERUS, COURTESY OF A24

BY KEITH HARRIS

Sometimes it's easy to forget that teens are human. So you can't totally blame movies for reducing adolescent characters to stock types that we can presumably all identify with, allowing kids in the audience to live out their fantasies and grown folks to indulge their nostalgia. But some of the best American films in recent years—Greta Gerwig's *Ladybird*, Marielle Heller's *Diary of a Teenage Girl*, Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*—have gone beyond “relatability,” keeping the standard elements of the coming-of-age plot (combative parents, bad sex, rocky friendships) while focusing on the idiosyncrasies that make their heroines stand out as individuals.

Elsie Fisher's Kayla, who endures her final week of middle school in Bo Burnham's *Eighth Grade*, is their cinematic peer. In her YouTube videos, she perkily examines self-help maxims. (A typical insight: “The hard part of being yourself is that it's not always easy.”) IRL, though, Kayla moves with the slumped shoulders of a kid who doesn't want to stand out, the baseline expression on her round, pleasant face a look of slight apprehension that then flick-

ers rapidly between other uncomfortable emotions without settling precisely on any one of them.

But Kayla wants to grow as a person. And with no help from friends or her kind, dorky, but hands-off dad, she relies on the internet, where she studies makeup tips and blowjob techniques as the blue electronic glow accentuates her acne. (Even her own videos, we realize, are her way of placing good advice in the mouth of an electronic avatar so it's easier for her to accept.) Himself one of the first generation of viral YouTube stars, Burnham is non-judgmental, perceptive, and matter-of-fact about how fully tech is integrated into teen lives, but he also plays internet absorption for broad laughs—at one point, some high school kids debate whether Kayla having Snapchat while she was still in middle school means she belongs to a different generation than theirs.

A series of small, awkward dramas plays out—Kayla survives a snooty girl's pool party, a flirtatious game of truth or dare, and more than one inopportune parental intrusion—but *Eighth Grade* is more interested in the rhythm of middle-school life than incident. And its script precisely captures the inarticulate grammar of the

EIGHTH GRADE

directed by Bo Burnham
starts Friday, area theaters

21st-century American teen: When Kayla punctuates a thought with a “like” and “um,” or softens a statement with “or something” or “sorry,” she's speaking a language with its own rules and conventions.

In fact, Fisher's performance is so convincing you can easily overlook how idealized Kayla is—she's almost too sweet, too capable, too self-sufficient to be a real kid. If the female directors I mentioned above are eager to run their heroines through the wringer, Burnham dotes on Kayla like an overprotective parent—the assurances her dad spouts could be the director's own thoughts. No matter the adolescent indignities she encounters, her fate feels gently cupped in the director's hands, and we can be assured she'll never be too crassly humiliated, never too fully defeated. Compared to more tough-minded coming-of-age movies, this can feel like pulling punches. But there's a generosity of spirit here that's hard to fault. Because honestly, teens are sweeter, more capable, and more self-sufficient than they get credit for. **B+**

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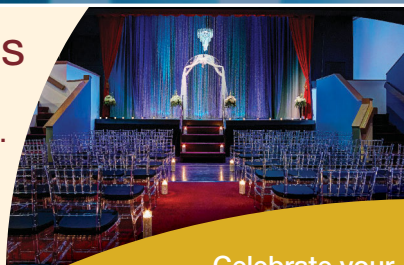


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them to your local Pilgrim Dry Cleaners. Backpacks should also be sprayed regularly with water repellent and cream should be applied to any leather bags to prevent cracking from sun exposure. For leather we recommend bringing the item to one of our stores for cleaning. Rainwear can develop odors and bacteria which can cause infections. Make sure these items are dry before folding and storing.

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STREET *Style*

YOU BETTER WORK Vogue Night at Walker Art Center on July 12. **BY PIERRE WARE**



JEROME T EVANS

30-SOMETHING, CORPORATE SALES

What are you wearing?

Mesh hoodie, harness with embellished shoulders, black shorts, and ankle boots.

Describe your style:

Comfortable but surprising. I'm not afraid to show a little skin but I don't aim to be provocative.

Current style inspiration?

My friends. They're always pushing me to try new looks. Their encouragement keeps my style versatile.

What's your best style tip?

Whatever you wear, wear it with confidence. It's the way you wear the clothes that makes all the difference.



RYAN INGALLS

27, INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

What are you wearing?

My grandmother's jade earrings and necklace. Top purchased in Hangzhou, China, that I altered into a crop top. High-waisted pants altered from a woman's jumpsuit.

Describe your style:

It's inspired by classic runway and queer movements, but most of all, my Taiwanese heritage. My grandmother is from Taipei, and she helped raise me and has inspired me in many ways.

What's your best style tip?

Stay true to yourself and don't be afraid to express yourself. Style is about finding out what works for you.



EMMA SNODGRASS

28, STRIPPER

What are you wearing?

Tee by SWOP Minneapolis: "Sex workers are like ninjas—you never know when one of us is in the room." Skirt from the free bin in the strip club locker room. Robe by my Mom, circa '90s. Boots are Funtasma. Choker from the internet.

Describe your style:

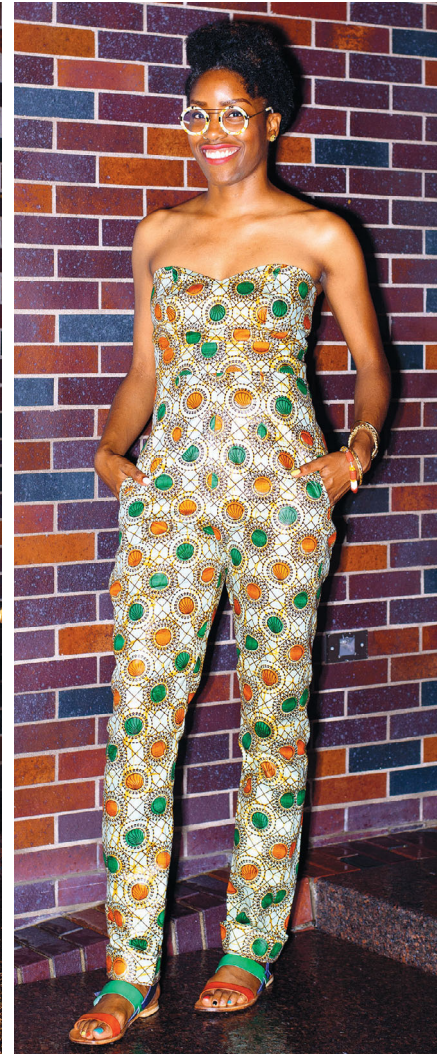
Chaotic and dysmorphic, with bursts of femme joy.

Where do you get style inspiration?

My friends and my childhood.

What's your best style tip?

Share and swap clothes with friends! Get free stuff!



BEATRICE JOSEPH

33, PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

What are you wearing?

I had the jumper made in Nigeria. Specs are from the internet somewhere.

Describe your style:

Eclectic. I like comfort and colors and mixing prints, patterns, and styles that don't necessarily go together.

Where do you get style inspiration?

I'm inspired by everything: the weather, a great song, nostalgia, The Original (my mama)... the list goes on.

What's your best style tip?

Wear what makes you feel good, what makes you happy, and don't be afraid to take risks!



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BY KEITH HARRIS

Extreme sports and extreme music go together, and they always have. So once again this year, the X Games x-travaganza will be accompanied by a series of musical events that'll let you thrash and groove and otherwise move your body in extreme ways. Three concerts will take place at the Armory this weekend: Kaskade on Friday, Ice Cube and Brother Ali on Saturday, and, on Sunday, Zedd.

Now, I know what you're wondering: Just how extreme is this music? Do I have an answer? Yes, I have an answer. Using lab-tested, proprietary scientific methods, I scrutinized each artist's catalog to determine both their most extreme song and their least extreme. On that basis, I've evaluated the extent of each artist's extremity, so you know what you're getting yourself into.

ICE CUBE

WHO'S HE?: A crazy motherfucker straight outta Compton.

MOST EXTREME: "The N**** You Love to Hate"

There's some serious competition here. In his heyday, Cube was among the most fearsome of rappers, dissing "Amerikkka," standing up to the police, and (unfortunately) helping rap earn its rep for misogyny. But this track is Cube at his most raw, setting himself up as a rage magnet and inviting all your scorn.

LEAST EXTREME: "It Was a Good Day"

No contest. Over a laid-back groove that captures the absence of stress, Cube relates his exploits as he rolls through town, scoring on the basketball court and in the bedroom. I mean, he didn't even have to use his AK—how unextreme is that?

IS ICE CUBE EXTREME?: Extremely extreme. He may be best known now as the genial middle-aged actor in the *Barbershop* movies, but at his core he's still ice cold.

BROTHER ALI

WHO'S HE?: A standout on our hometown Rhymesayers crew, a devout Muslim, and an activist.

MOST EXTREME: "Uncle Sam Goddamn" Ali has rhymed harder than this, but lyrically he's never focused his righteous beliefs as sharply as on this politically charged 2007 single, which denounces our nation's "billion dollar a week 'kill brown people' habit." So extreme it actually lost him a Verizon sponsorship.

LEAST EXTREME: "All the Beauty in This Whole Life"

The title track to the rapper's 2017 album is a gentle, poetic expression of

love, the epitome of the graceful and mature Ali's art.

IS BROTHER ALI EXTREME?: When he needs to be. He's mellowed with age without softening his political commitment. Let's say moderately extreme.

KASKADE

WHO'S HE?: A big-name progressive house DJ

MOST EXTREME: "Fun"

A nasty bassline and tricky cowbell pattern set the rhythm before the beat builds up steam and goes full EDM, while a frisky-voiced woman named Madge elaborates

on the timeless lyrical theme "I wanna have some fun."

LEAST EXTREME: "Almost Back"

Here's Kaskade's m.o.: Gently rolling beats you can get lost in building to a chorus where an uncharismatic female voice delivers a melody you'll almost remember afterward.

IS KASKADE EXTREME?: Extremely moderate, maybe.

ZEDD

WHO'S HE?: An adorably elfin European fellow who crafts whooshy pop hits.

MOST EXTREME: "Break Free," with Ariana Grande, which will always be remembered for the cryptically almost-English lyrics: "I only wanna die alive/Never by the hands of a broken heart/I don't wanna hear you lie tonight/Now that I've become who I really are."

LEAST EXTREME: "Stay," with Alessia Cara. But really, only because Alessia is less extreme than Ariana.

IS ZEDD EXTREME?: Did you miss the part where I said he was an adorably elfin European fellow who crafts whooshy pop hits? Extremely unextreme. **Q**

THE X GAMES CONCERTS: HOW *EXTREME* ARE THEY?



Clockwise from left: Brother Ali, Kaskade, Ice Cube, Zedd

CLOCKWISE: ADAM STANZAK, TYLER GOURLEY, PRESS PHOTO, PRESS PHOTO



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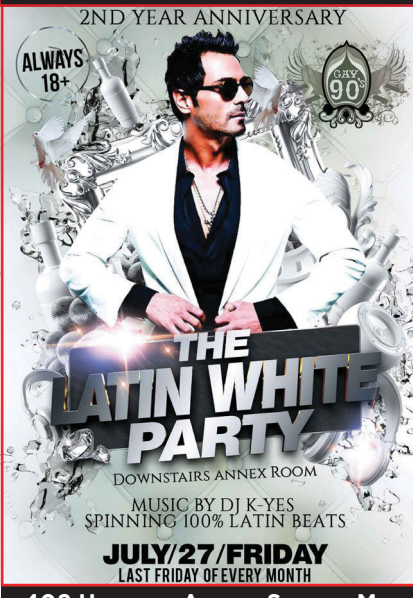


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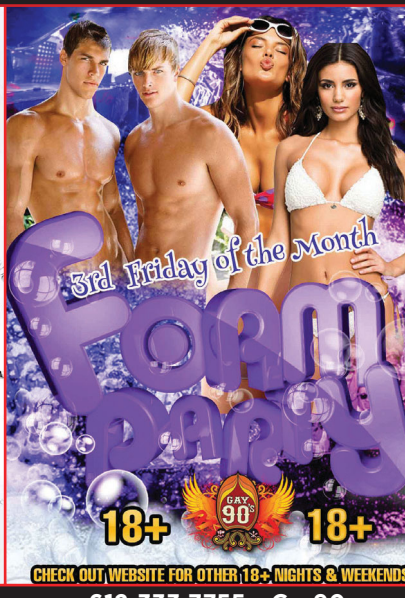
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THE HANDSOME FAMILY

THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, WEDNESDAY 7.18

Led by the baritone-voiced Brett Sparks, who sings wife Rennie's literary and sometimes macabre lyrics, the Handsome Family broke through to a wider audience when their 2003 song "Far from Any Road" became the theme for HBO's *True Detective*. But the duo had by then built a strong cult following with a home-recorded sound blending alternative and traditional country styles. They released their 11th album, the quietly masterful *Unseen*, in 2016. With Chris Crofton. 7:30 p.m. \$18/\$20. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674.

—MICHAEL MADDEN

TONY PEACHKA

7TH ST ENTRY, WEDNESDAY 7.18

Sadly, Minneapolis' Tony Peachka, who were City Pages' No. 2 Picked to Click finishers in 2016, will end as a one-and-done band, calling it quits ahead of leader Melissa Jones' upcoming move to Denver. Their only record, 2016's *Dirty Knees*, is a punchy collection of self-deprecating pop-punk that local rock fans should be spinning for years to come. Other band members will continue to play in local acts like Bruise Violet and Scrunchies. With City Counselor and the Florists. 18+. 7:30 p.m. \$10. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

JUICE WRLD

MYTH, FRIDAY 7.20

The "SoundCloud rap" explosion that produced stars like XXXTentacion and Lil Pump has now given us Juice WRLD. Better than some of his peers, the 19-year-old Calumet Park, Illinois native synthesizes emo melodies into his druggy sound, spawning hits including "All Girls Are the Same" and "Lucid Dreams" (which reached No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100). Though Juice has some maturing to do as a lyricist, the seeming ease with which he writes hooks suggests he could be a factor in pop music for years to come. 7 p.m. \$35-\$100. 3090 Southlawn Dr., St. Paul; 651-779-6984. —MICHAEL MADDEN

RAPHAEL SAADIQ

FIRST AVENUE, FRIDAY 7.20

Though elusive in recent years, Raphael Saadiq remains an essential R&B artist. The one-time Prince bassist and Tony! Toni! Toné! member's most recent solo album is 2011's excellent, dusty soul throwback *Stone Rollin'*. Now 52, Saadiq has since sung on fan-favorite records by Rick Ross, executive-produced Solange's sweeping masterpiece *A Seat at the Table*, and co-written Mary J. Blige's Oscar-nominated "Mighty River." With Ali Shaheed Muhammad. 18+. 8 p.m. \$35. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —MICHAEL MADDEN

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): “Take a lover who looks at you like maybe you are magic.” Whenever that quote appears on the internet, it’s falsely attributed to painter Frida Kahlo. In fact, it was originally composed by poet Marty McConnell. In any case, I’ll recommend that you heed it in the coming weeks. You really do need to focus on associating with allies who see the mysterious and lyrical best in you. I will also suggest that you get inspired by a line that Frida Kahlo actually wrote: “Take a lover who looks at you like maybe you are a bourbon biscuit.” (If you don’t know what a bourbon biscuit is, I’ll tell you: chocolate buttercream stuffed between two thin rectangular chocolate biscuits.)

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Here’s what author Franz Kafka wrote in his diary on August 2, 1914: “Germany has declared war on Russia. I went swimming in the afternoon.” We could possibly interpret his nonchalance about world events to be a sign of callous self-absorption. But I recommend that you cultivate a similar attitude in the coming weeks. In accordance with astrological omens, you have the right and the need to shelter yourself from the vulgar insanity of politics and the pathological mediocrity of mainstream culture. So feel free to spend extra time focusing on your own well-being. (P.S.: Kafka’s biographer says swimming served this role for him. It enabled him to access deep unconscious reserves of pleasurable power that renewed his spirit.)

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Am I delusional to advise a perky, talkative Gemini like yourself to enhance your communication skills? How dare I even hint that you’re not quite perfect at a skill you were obviously born to excel at? But that’s exactly what I’m here to convey. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to take inventory of how you could more fully develop your natural ability to exchange information. You’ll be in robust alignment with cosmic rhythms if you take action to refine the way you express your own messages and receive and respond to other people’s messages.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Self-described skeptics sometimes say to me, “How can any intelligent person believe in astrology? You must be suffering from a brain dysfunction if you imagine that the movements of planets can reveal any useful clues about our lives.” If the “skeptics” is truly open-minded, as an authentic skeptic should be, I offer a mini-lecture to correct his misunderstandings. If he’s not (which is the usual case), I say that I don’t need to “believe” in astrology; I use astrology because it works. For instance, I have a working hypothesis that Cancerians like myself enjoy better-than-average insight and luck with money every year from late July through the month of August. It’s irrelevant whether there’s a “scientific” theory to explain why this might be. I simply undertake efforts to improve my financial situation at this time, and I’m often successful.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Here are some of the fine gifts you’re eligible for and even likely to receive during the next four weeks: a more constructive and fluid relationship with obsession; a panoramic look at what lies below the tip of the metaphorical iceberg; a tear-jerking joyride that cracks open your sleeping sense of wonder; erasure of at least 20 percent of your self-doubt; vivid demonstrations of the excitement available from slowing down and taking your sweet time; and a surprising and useful truth delivered to your soul by your body.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): During the last three months of 2018, I suspect you will dismantle or outgrow a foundation. Why? So as to prepare the way for building or finding a new foundation in 2019. From next January onward, I predict you will re-imagine the meaning of home. You’ll grow fresh roots and come to novel conclusions about the influences that enable you to feel secure and stable. The reason I’m revealing these clues ahead of time is because now is a good time to get a foreshadowing of how to proceed. You can glean insights on where to begin your work.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A reader asked Libran blogger Ana-Sofia Cardella, “How does one become more sensual?” I’ll ask you to meditate on the same question. Why? Because it’s a good time to enrich and deepen your sensuality. For inspiration, here are some ideas that blend my words with Cardella’s: “Laugh easily and freely. Tune in to the rhythm of your holy animal body as you walk. Sing songs that remind you why you’re here on earth. Give yourself the luxury of reading books that thrill your imagination and fill you with fresh questions. Eat food with your fingers. Allow sweet melancholy to snake through you. Listen innocently to people, being warm-hearted and slyly wild. Soak up colors with your eager eyes. Whisper grateful prayers to the sun as you exult in its gifts.”

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “If people aren’t laughing at your goals, your goals are too small.” So says bodybuilder Kai Greene. I don’t know if I would personally make such a brazen declaration, but I do think it’s worth considering—especially for you right now. You’re entering into the Big Bold Vision time of your astrological cycle. It’s a phase when you’ll be wise to boost the intensity of your hopes for yourself, and get closer to knowing the ultimate form of what you want, and be daring enough to imagine the most sublime possible outcomes for your future. If you do all that with the proper chutzpah, some people may indeed laugh at your audacity. That’s OK!

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This mini-chapter in your epic life story is symbolically ruled by the fluttering flights of butterflies, the whirring hum of hummingbird wings, the soft cool light of fireflies, and the dawn dances of seahorses. To take maximum advantage of the blessings life will tease you with in the coming weeks, I suggest you align yourself with phenomena like those. You will tend to be alert and receptive in just the right ways if you cultivate a love of fragile marvels, subtle beauty, and amazing grace.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I swear the astrological omens are telling me to tell you that you have license to make the following requests: 1. People from your past who say they’d like to be part of your future have to prove their earnestness by forgiving your debts to them and asking your forgiveness for their debts to you. 2. People who are pushing for you to be influenced by them must agree to be influenced by you. 3. People who want to deepen their collaborations with you must promise to deepen their commitment to wrestling with their own darkness. 4. People who say they care for you must prove their love in a small but meaningful way.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will never find an advertisement for Nike or Apple within the sacred vessel of this horoscope column. But you may come across plugs for soul-nourishing commodities like creative freedom, psychosexual bliss, and playful generosity. Like everyone else, I’m a salesperson—although I believe that the wares I peddle are unambiguously good for you. In this spirit, I invite you to hone your own sales pitch. It’s an excellent time to interest people in the fine products and ideas and services that you have to offer.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Would you do me a favor, please? Would you do your friends and loved ones and the whole world a favor? Don’t pretend you’re less powerful and beautiful than you are. Don’t downplay or neglect the magic you have at your disposal. Don’t act as if your unique genius is nothing special. OK? Are you willing to grant us these small indulgences? Your specific talents, perspectives, and gifts are indispensable right now. The rest of us need you to be bold and brazen about expressing them.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9			10	11	12
13					14						15			
16					17						18			
19				20						21				
22				23					24					
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49			50					51				52		
53						54	55					56		
57					58						59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

WORLD’S EASIEST MATH QUIZ

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

1

Highest point

5

Movie character who says "I like to make sexy time!"

10

___ about (room)

13

Hang overhead

14

___ Island

15

Completed

16

Globe villain

17

Question #1

19

Explorer's org.

20

Make a sign of the cross over, say

21

Sit in on, as a class

22

You can bank on it

23

Ending with pay

24

Fine fur

25

Question #2

29

GRE company

30

Removed

31

Mama bear, in Madrid

32

Glorified intern: Abbr.

33

Question #3

37

Back-of-the-fridge problem

40

Explorer John

41

See 35-Down

45

Genetic material

46

Question #4

49

Like hot butter

51

Doze (off)

52

"Efil4zaggin" rappers

53

No longer dating

54

___ & Barrel

56

Mo. with National Beheading Day

57

Question #5

59

It's used to rock the cradle

60

Rushes in the past

61

"A Christmas Story" toy

62

"Kraut rockers" ___ Duul

63

"Catch-22" character who is concussed by a prostitute

64

Look after

65

His symbol is the thunderbolt

32

Home of the Cyclones

34

Push

35

With 41-Across, Super Bowl XXXV MVP

36

Leave out

37

Super-stud

38

Two tens, e.g.

39

LeBron James, e.g.

42

Naively charming

43

"Thanks man, getcha next time"

44

Some stroller attachments

46

Frequent fliers

47

Going nowhere, fast

48

Say nay, politically

50

Uno y dos

54

Small piece of meat

55

___ Against the Machine

58

Brees and Rodgers, e.g.

59

He wore #8 for

Down

1

Fairy tale opener?

2

Of the shore

3

1953 Gable-Gardner film

4

Paraprosdokian-dropping comic Philips

5

S.O.S. alternative

6

"Here we go again"

7

Metz monarchs

8

Bothers

9

___ Offensive (1/30/68 event)

10

Treats

11

Gives last rites to, e.g.

12

Most skillful

15

Kit piece

18

Law firm gofer

20

Fab

24

King David

26

Over there, poetically

27

Copied, as a cow

28

Computer port

Last Week's Answer

I	T	H	I	N	K		S	O	H	A	V	E	I					
C	H	O	R	A	L		H	E	D	O	N	I	S	T				
E	R	R	A	T	A		O	N	E	S	I	D	E	D				
C	A	D	S	U	B	S		S	E	M								
A	S	E	A				S	I	T	E		T	A	H	O	E		
P	H	I	S	H			O	I	L		C	O	L	O	R	S		
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H	A	L					C	O	S	T	I	N	G		T	O	N	
Y	E	A					K	I	T	H		S	U	M	O			
D	O	N	H	E	N		L	E	Y		E	L	F	I	N			
E	N	D	E	D			O	D	O	N		S	I	N	E			
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A	L	V	E	O	L	A	R				D	A	R	I	U	S		
M	O	O	N	W	A	L	K				I	T	I	S	S	O		
S	O	L	A	N	G	E					R	E	D	H	E	N		

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Connections

I had an orgasm during
a nonerotic massage.
Am I a creep?



Dan Savage

While on vacation, I went for a full body massage. When the masseuse asked me to flip on my back, she uncovered one of my legs and began massaging my thigh. As she worked on my inner thigh, her finger grazed my scrotum. Then it happened again. And again. I began to worry I was getting a visible erection. Then I started to panic when I felt like I might actually come. I tried hard to clamp down and think about baseball and senior citizens, but I had an orgasm. She eventually moved to my arms, etc., but meanwhile I'm lying there with jizz cooling on myself. Am I guilty of #metoo bad behavior? Is it possible she didn't have any clue? (My penis was never uncovered and I didn't create an obvious wet spot on the sheet.) I tipped her extra, in case she was mortified. I still feel really weird about it. I get massages frequently, this has never happened before, and I certainly didn't go into it looking for this result.

LOST OPPORTUNITY AT DE-ESCALATION

loves me. (Some will assume, because of the age difference, that he "groomed" me. He did not.) I date vanilla boys my age, with his full support, while we continue to text daily. I don't want to blow up his family if (or when) our affair is discovered. But at the same time, our relationship has really helped me navigate my kinks and my sexuality. Expecting him to leave his wife for me is a highly unrealistic cliché, I am aware. Yet I fear I've become dependent on his conversation and advice. Any perspective you have would be much appreciated.

THINGS MUST IMPROVE

If it all went down as you described, LOAD, you aren't guilty of "#metoo bad behavior." It's not uncommon for people to become unintentionally aroused during a nonerotic massage. "Erections do happen," a masseuse told me when I ran your letter past her. "So long as guys don't suddenly ask for a 'happy ending,' expose themselves, or—God help me—attempt to take my hand and place it on their erection, they haven't done anything wrong."

I don't think you should waste too much time worrying about it, but if you're concerned this one massage created a powerful erotic association and you're likely to blow a load the next time a masseuse so much as looks at one of your thighs, go ahead and have a quick wank before your appointment.

I'm a 20-year-old submissive woman. I'm currently in a confusing affair with a 50-year-old dominant married man. He lives in Europe and has two kids close to my age. We met online when I was 17 and starting to explore my BDSM desires—out of the reach of my overbearing, sex-shaming, disastrously religious parents—and we've been texting daily ever since. We've since met in different countries and spent a total of three weeks together. Those weeks were amazing, both sexually and emotionally, and he says he

He is not going to leave his wife for you, and you shouldn't assume his wife is going to leave him if (or when) this affair is discovered. Divorce may be the default setting in the United States in the wake of an affair, but Europeans take a much more, well, European attitude toward infidelity.

And you don't need him to leave his wife for you, TMI. Don't fall into the trap of believing a romantic relationship requires a tidy ending. Romantic relationships take many forms, TMI, as does romantic success. And this relationship sounds like an ongoing success.

In other words, I think you're confused because there won't be a resolution that fits into a familiar mold. But you don't need a resolution: You can continue to text with him, and he can continue to provide you with his advice and support while you continue to date single, available, and kinky men (no more vanilla boys!). Eventually you'll meet a new guy you're crazy about—someone you can see for more than one week a year—and you'll feel less dependent on and connected to your old flame.

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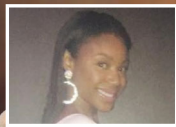
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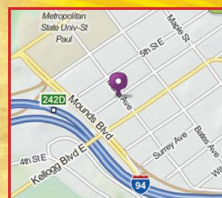


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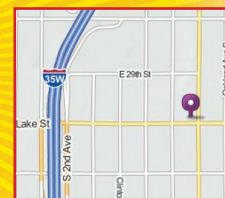
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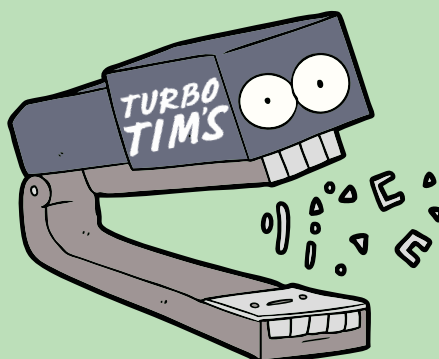
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